

Books in Translation

***The Lost Domain* by Alain-Fournier**

Fic Alain-Fournier

Francois Seurel recalls the impact of Augustin Meaulnes, disruptive and charismatic, on his schoolmates, and an encounter that haunts them both. Meaulnes, lost, stumbles upon an isolated house, mysterious revels, and a beautiful girl. When he returns, it is with the fixed determination to find the house again, and the girl with whom he has fallen in love. (French)

***Tevye the Dairyman and the Railroad Stories* by Sholem Aleichem**

839.0933 Aleichem

Of all the characters in modern Jewish fiction, the most beloved is Tevye, the compassionate, irrepressible, Bible-quoting dairyman from Anatevka, who has been immortalized in the writings of Sholem Aleichem and in acclaimed and award-winning theatrical and film adaptations. (Yiddish)

***Maya's Notebook* by Isabel Allende**

Fic Allende

After the death of her beloved grandfather, 19-year-old Maya Vidal becomes trapped in a war between assassins, the police, the FBI, and Interpol. Her grandmother helps her escape to a remote island off the coast of Chile, where she tries to make sense of her life. (Spanish)

***The Last Brother* by Nathacha Appanah-Mouriquand**

Fic Appanah-Mouriquand

In the closing days of 1944, 9-year-old Raj lives in Mauritius unaware of the war devastating the world. After a brutal beating lands Raj in a prison camp hospital, he meets David, a boy his own age. David is a Jewish refugee now indefinitely detained on the island. A massive storm brings chaos to the camp, and Raj is determined to help David escape. (French)

***Jar City* by Arnaldur Indriðason**

Fic Arnaldur

When a lonely old man is found murdered in his Reykjavík flat, the only clues are a cryptic note left by the killer and a photograph of a young girl's grave. Inspector Erlendur, who heads the investigation team, discovers that many years ago the victim was accused, though not convicted, of an unsolved crime. Did the old man's past come back to haunt him? (Icelandic)

***Père Goriot* by Honoré de Balzac**

Fic Balzac

This fine example of the French realist novel contrasts the social progress of an impoverished but ambitious aristocrat with the tale of a father, whose obsessive love for his daughters leads to his personal and financial ruin. (French)

***The Life of Elves* by Muriel Barbery**

Fic Barbery

This is the story of Maria and Clara, two children whose extraordinary talents will bring them into contact with magical worlds and malevolent forces. If, against all odds, they can be brought together, their meeting may shape the course of history. (French)

***Mr. Gwyn and Three Times at Dawn* by Alessandro Barrico**

Fic Barrico

Celebrated author Jasper Gwyn embarks on a new career path as a "copyist," holding 30-day sittings in a meticulously appointed room and producing, at the end, brief but profoundly rich portraits in prose. The surprising, beautiful, and even frightening results are received with rapture by their subjects--among them Gwyn's devoted assistant, Rebecca; a beautiful fabric importer; a tailor to the Queen; and a very dangerous 19-year-old. (Italian)

***Rio Noir* edited by Tony Bellotto**

Fic Bellotto

"These clever, well written stories are for anyone who wants to get a 'behind the scenes' look at Rio, where drugs, violence, sex and murder are major themes. All of these stories show Rio as a city that is teeming with life, even if some of it is dark and shadowy." – Susanne's Booklist (Portuguese)

***Into the War* by Italo Calvino**

Fic Calvino

These three stories draw on Calvino's memories of his own adolescence during WWII, too young to be forced to fight in Mussolini's army but old enough to be conscripted into the Italian youth brigades. The callow narrator observes the mounting unease of a city in time of war, the looting of a French town, and nighttime revels during a blackout. (Italian)

***The Meursault Investigation* by Kamel Daoud**

Fic Daoud

He was the brother of "the Arab" killed by the infamous Meursault, the antihero of Camus's classic novel *The Stranger*. Seventy years after that event, Harun refuses to let his brother remain anonymous: he gives him a story and a name – Musa – and describes the events that led to Musa's casual murder on a dazzlingly sunny beach. (French/Algeria)

***The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco**

Fic Eco

Franciscans in a wealthy abbey are suspected of heresy, and Brother William of Baskerville arrives to investigate. When his mission is suddenly overshadowed by seven bizarre deaths, Brother William collects evidence, deciphers secret symbols and coded manuscripts, and digs into the eerie abbey armed with wry humor and ferocious curiosity. (Italian)

***The End of Days* by Jenny Erpenbeck**

Fic Erpenbeck

Each of five stories leads to a different death for an unnamed woman protagonist. From a baby in the early 20th-century Hapsburg Empire, to a girl growing up in Vienna, to a newlywed moving to Russia with her husband, we see her life unfold in different scenarios. “How could it all have gone differently?” asks the narrator in the intermezzos. (German)

***Forest of a Thousand Demons* by D. O. Fagunwa**

Fic Fagunwa

A triumph of the mythic imagination, the narrative unfolds in a landscape where, true to Yoruba cosmology, human, natural, and supernatural beings are compellingly and wonderfully alive at once. ... Here are the adventures of Akara-ogun—son of a brave warrior and wicked witch—as he journeys into the forest ... engaging in dynamic spiritual and moral relationships with personifications of his fate, projections of the terrors that haunt man. (Goodreads) (Yoruba)

***My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante**

Fic Ferrante

Naples, 1950s. Growing up on these tough streets, two girls learn to rely on each other ahead of anyone or anything else. As they grow, as their paths repeatedly diverge and converge, Elena and Lila remain best friends whose respective destinies are reflected and refracted in the other. They are likewise the embodiments of a nation undergoing momentous change. (Italian)

***Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert**

Fic Flaubert

Emma Bovary turns to spending and a series of affairs to combat the tedium of married life and motherhood. Heartbroken and crippled by debts, she takes drastic action that results in tragedy. (French)

***The Vegetarian* by Han Kang**

Fic Han

An unsettling dream prompts Yeong-hye renounce eating meat. It's a small act of independence, but a scandalous one in her straight-laced society, interrupting her marriage and setting into motion an increasingly grotesque chain of events. (Korean)

***War and Turpentine* by Stefan Hertmans**

Fic Hertmans

The life of Urbain Martien – artist, soldier, survivor of World War I – lies contained in two notebooks he left behind when he died in 1981. His grandson, a writer, retells his story, the notebooks giving him the impetus to imagine his way into the locked chambers of Urbain's memory. (Dutch)

***The Anchor Book of Modern Arabic Fiction* edited by Denys Johnson-Davies**

892.7 Johnson Davies

This dazzling anthology features the work of seventy-nine outstanding writers from all over the Arab-speaking world, from Morocco in the west to Iraq in the east, Syria in the north to Sudan in the south.

***Amerika* by Franz Kafka**

Fic Kafka

Kafka's first and funniest novel tells the story of Karl Rossmann, who, after an incident involving a housemaid, is banished by his parents to America. Expected to redeem himself in this magical land of opportunity, young Karl is swept up instead in a whirlwind of dizzying reversals, strange escapades, and picaresque adventures. (German)

***Suddenly, a Knock on the Door* by Etgar Keret**

Fic Keret

In Keret's stories, the living and the dead, silent children and talking animals, dreams and waking life coexist in an uneasy world. Overflowing with absurdity, humor, sadness, and compassion, these tales establish Etgar Keret – declared a “genius” by The New York Times – as one of the most original writers of his generation. (Hebrew)

***The African Equation* by Yasmina Khadra**

New Fic Khadra

Following his wife's suicide, Kurt agrees to join his friend Hans on a humanitarian mission to the Comoros. After their boat is boarded by pirates, the men imprisoned in a cave on the East African coast. The kidnappers and environment test their endurance to the limit. What can Kurt learn about his captors, the land, and, more importantly, himself? (French/Algerian)

***Gate of the Sun* by Elias Khoury**

Fic Khoury

Yunes, a Palestinian freedom fighter, lies in a coma. Keeping vigil at the old man's bedside is his spiritual son, Khalil, refusing to admit that his hero may never regain consciousness. Like a modern-day Scheherazade, Khalil relates their story of exile while also recalling Yunes's life and love for his wife, whom he meets secretly at the Gate of the Sun. (Goodreads) (Arabic)

***The Dark Road* by Jian Ma**

Fic Ma

Kongzi believes himself to be a direct descendant of Confucius, and he is haunted by the imperative to have a son. And so, his wife becomes pregnant again without state permission. When local officials launch a new wave of crackdowns, the family makes the decision to set out on a small, rickety houseboat down the Yangtze River. There is a dark road, and tragedy awaits them, but also the fierce beauty born of courageous resistance to injustice and inhumanity. (Chinese)

***The Life of an Unknown Man* by Andreï Makine**

Fic Makine

Exiled writer Shutov returns to Russia and meets Volsky, an old man who tells him his extraordinary story: of surviving the siege of Leningrad, the march on Berlin, and Stalin's purges, and of a transcendent love affair. Volsky's life inspires Shutov; for all that he suffered, he knew great happiness. (Russian)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: a new verse translation

821.1 Merwin

An enormous, green-skinned knight addresses a challenge to King Arthur's court: he will endure an axe blow to his neck without resistance, but whoever gives the blow must vow to take the same. The story tells of the adventure Sir Gawain finds – seduction, shockingly brutal hunts, and terrifyingly powerful villains – as he endeavors to fulfill his vow. (Middle English)

***Heart of the Hunter* by Deon Meyer**

Fic Meyer, Deon

In his stunning American debut, the South African thriller writer delivers the story of a kidnapping and of a man refusing to reclaim the ruthless methods he mastered in the darkest days of South Africa's battle for survival. (Afrikaans)

***Confessions* by Kanae Minato**

Fic Minato

Yuko Moriguchi had nothing to live for except her daughter, 4-year-old Manami. Now, following Manami's death on the grounds of the school where Yuko teaches, Yuko has resigned her position. But first she has one last lecture to deliver. She accuses two of her pupils of having murdered her daughter, setting in motion a diabolical sequence of events. (Japanese)

***Wizard of the Crow* by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o**

Fic Ngugi wa Thiongo

Set in the "Free Republic of Aburiria," the novel dramatizes with corrosive humor and keenness of observation a battle for control of the souls of the Aburirian people. Among the contenders: His High Mighty Excellency; the Wizard, an avatar of folklore and wisdom; the corrupt Christian Ministry; and the nefarious Global Bank. (Gikuyu)

***The Year of the Hare* by Arto Paasilinna**

Fic Paasilinna

While out on assignment, a journalist hits a hare with his car. This small incident becomes life-changing: he decides to quit his job, leave his wife, sell his possessions, and spend a year wandering the wilds of Finland-with the bunny as his boon companion. (Finnish)

***There Once Lived a Woman Who Tried to Kill Her Neighbor's Baby* by Ludmilla Petrushevskaya**

Fic Petrushevskaya

Vanishings and apparitions, nightmares and twists of fate, mysterious ailments and supernatural interventions haunt these stories. Blending the miraculous with the macabre, and leavened by a mischievous gallows humor, these bewitching tales are like nothing being written in Russia – or anywhere else in the world – today. (Russian)

***I Curse the River of Time* by Per Petterson**

Fic Petterson

Anticipating a divorce against a backdrop of the fall of communism, Arvid is further dismayed by his mother's diagnosis with cancer, a situation that prompts his emotionally charged quest for understanding and balance. (Norwegian)

***Tesla: a portrait with masks* by Vladimir Pištalo**

Fic Pistalo

Nikola Tesla captures the whirlwind years of the dawn of the electrical age, when his flair for showmanship kept him in the public eye. For every successful invention--the alternating current electrical system and wireless communication among them--there were hundreds of others. But what of the man behind the image? (Serbian)

***The Hangman's Daughter* by Oliver Pötzsch**

Fic Pötzsch

When a dying boy is pulled from the river with a mark crudely tattooed on his shoulder, hangman Jakob Kuisl is called upon to investigate whether witchcraft is at play in his small Bavarian town. (German)

***The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón**

M Ruiz Zafon

Daniel, son of a book dealer, finds solace in a mysterious book by one Julián Carax. But when he sets out to find Carax's other works, he discovers that someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book by Carax. Soon, Daniel's quest opens a door into one of Barcelona's darkest secrets – an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love. (Spanish)

The Lives of Things* by José Saramago*Fic Saramago**

Combining bitter satire, outrageous parody and Kafkaesque hallucinations, these stories explore the horror and repression that paralyzed Portugal under the Salazar regime and pay tribute to human resilience in the face of injustice and institutionalized tyranny. (Portuguese)

The Exchange of Princesses* by Chantal Thomas*Fic Thomas**

Philippe d'Orléans, regent of France, decides to marry 11-year-old Louis XV to the 4-year-old daughter of Philippe V of Spain. Were Louis to die without an heir, Philippe himself would finally be king. Philippe tosses his own daughter, 12-year-old Mlle. de Montpensier, into the bargain, to marry the heir to the Spanish throne. The nations trade princesses in a grand ceremony in 1722, making a bond that should end their conflict, but nothing turns out as expected. (French)

Lovers on All Saints' Day* by Juan Gabriel Vásquez*Fic Vasquez**

A Colombian writer is witness to a murder that will mark him forever. A woman sits alone in her house, waiting for her husband to return from an expedition to find wood for their stove, while he lies in another woman's bed a few miles away. Love affairs, revenge, troubled pasts, and tender moments reveal a person's whole history in a few sentences. (Spanish)

The Secret of Wilhelm Storitz* by Jules Verne*SF Verne**

Wilhelm Storitz, the son of a famous scientist (and possessor of his father's secrets – even, perhaps, a formula that confers invisibility), vows revenge on the family that has denied him the love of his life, Myra Roderich. Wilhelm's actions on the eve of Myra's wedding unfold in a surprising and sinister way, leading to an ending that will astonish the reader. (French)

Vertical Motion* by Can Xue*Fic Xue**

The stories in this striking and lyrical new collection – populated by old married couples, children, cats, and nosy neighbors, the entire menagerie of the everyday – reaffirm Can Xue's reputation as one of China's most innovative writers. (Chinese)

Shipwrecks* by Akira Yoshimura*Fic Yoshimura**

Isaku's people distill salt to sell to neighboring villages. This industry serves another, more sinister purpose: the fires of the salt cauldrons lure passing ships onto rocky shoals, so the villagers can loot the cargo for rice, wine, and delicacies. One day a ship founders on the rocks, but its cargo is far deadlier than could ever be imagined. (Japanese)

Brothers* by Hua Yu*Fic Yu**

As comically mismatched teenagers, Baldy Li, a sex-obsessed ne'er-do-well, and Song Gang, his bookish, sensitive stepbrother, vow that they will always be brothers – a bond they will struggle to maintain over the years as they weather the ups and downs of rivalry in love and making and losing millions in the new China. (Chinese)

Other Authors

Isabel Allende (Spanish)

Simone de Beauvoir (French)

Anton Chekov (Russian)

Colette (French)

Fyodor Dostoyevsky (Russian)

Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Spanish)

Günter Grass (German)

Anne Holt (Norwegian)

Victor Hugo (French)

Milan Kundera (French/Czech)

Stieg Larsson (Swedish)

Haruki Murakami (Japanese)

Vladimir Nabokov (Russian)

Leo Tolstoy (Russian)